

Social Security. His priorities for agriculture have included export market development, further regulatory relief, and improved risk management options.

In another parallel to my own experiences, BILL BARRETT's public service didn't begin in the Nation's capital. He started at the grassroots level and has been active in local, State, and national politics for many years. He was a member of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature from 1979–90 and served as Speaker the last four of those years.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to join with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and the rest of his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the efforts and the many outstanding achievements of Representative BILL BARRETT. His many contributions as a Member of the House of Representatives will be long remembered in Congress and by the people of Nebraska.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN TILLIE FOWLER

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to congratulate my colleague and good friend Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER on her exemplary service to her district and the nation as she retires from the U.S. Congress.

Congresswoman FOWLER is well known as a determined advocate for a strong national defense and has worked with great success on behalf of the military personnel and facilities in her district and around the country. Congresswoman FOWLER supported me immensely as I secured \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Appropriations bill for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. These funds were used for much needed maintenance to the memorial. Over the past 3 years Congresswoman FOWLER has joined me in organizing a wreath laying ceremony at the Women's Memorial to pay homage to the thousands of women who have served in our armed services. Congresswoman FOWLER has served graciously and energetically as co-host of this very touching ceremony. The Women's Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997 and stands as the nation's only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces during all eras and in all services.

I have been fortunate to serve with Congresswoman FOWLER on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Together, we have worked for needed improvements to road, mass transit, water, and public works infrastructure. She is one of the hardest working Members I have had the pleasure of working with on this committee. I applaud Congresswoman FOWLER for her dedication to serving the interests of her constituents and the nation. She has been an outstanding colleague and a good friend. I feel privileged to have worked with the Congresswoman and wish her God speed as she embarks upon another endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 592. I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House when the following votes were taken. Had I been present on the following items my vote would have been the same as indicated following the resolution.

Oct. 30, 583, H. Res. 663, on agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of S. 2485; and Corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2614, "yes"; Oct. 30, 582, H. Res. 663, on ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of S. 2485; and Corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2614, "yes"; Oct. 30, 581, H. Res. 662, on agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 580, H. Res. 662, on Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 579, motion, on hour of meeting, "yes"; Oct. 30, 578 H.J. Res. 120, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 577, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 29, 576, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 29, 575, H.J. Res. 119, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 29, 574, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 28, 573, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 572, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 571, H.J. Res. 118, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 570, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 19, H.R. 4541, to Authorize and Amend the Commodity Exchange Act to Promote Legal Certainty, Enhance Competition, and reduce Systematic Risk in Markets for Futures and Over the Counter Derivatives, and for other Purposes, "yes".

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, recently, the House of Representatives passed legislation giving billions of dollars to Medicare providers, the bulk of which went to Medicare HMOs. This legislation did virtually nothing for providers under Medicaid. Yet, in almost every State across the nation, Medicaid payment rates are a fraction of what Medicare pays.

The motion offered by the gentleman from Texas, Mr. BENTSEN, insists that the conferees to the Labor HHS bill ensure provider payments in the Medicaid Program are adequate to ensure that the children, disabled, and working families covered by Medicaid have access to quality health care. I appreciate his commitment to readdress this in the next Congress.

Medicaid covers 38 percent of all births in this country. It pays for 30 percent of all visits to pediatricians. The Medicaid Program insures more than 21 million children in this country. It also pays for a significant portion of nursing home care for the elderly. Medicaid is an insurance program that provides care for the most vulnerable in our society. By failing to ensure that Medicaid provider payments are adequate, access is jeopardized and we are failing our children, our elderly parents, and the disabled who depend on this program for their health care.

In my home State of Michigan, I have worked to ensure providers get adequate reimbursement so that they will continue to participate in the Medicaid Program and provide quality care. But, the situation remains dismal. Medicaid payments for obstetric care in Michigan are less than half of the Medicare rate. Payment for primary care services is also barely half of what Medicare pays. This, at a time when the state has more than a billion dollars in budget surplus and will receive more than 300 million dollars this fiscal year in tobacco settlement money.

In Michigan, what is becoming increasingly troubling is that the state is attempting, by expanding the use of HMOs in Medicaid, to wash its hands completely of any responsibility to ensure providers are paid adequately. The state is shifting beneficiaries wholesale into managed care, yet the state is failing to monitor aggressively the adequacy of HMOs' payments to doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes that provide care for beneficiaries. In Michigan, inadequate provider payments by managed care plans under contract with the state have resulted in disruption in care and difficulty for many in obtaining care. Particularly acute problems have surfaced for individuals with HIV and children with special needs. We have a responsibility to ensure provider payments are adequate for beneficiaries whether they are in fee-for-service or managed care.

Nursing homes too, receive woefully low reimbursement to care for Medicaid beneficiaries. In 2000, it is projected that more than